**Types of Integer Word Problems**

1. “What’s the *total*?” “What’s the *net change*?”  
   To get the *total*, you need to add. *Net change* is just another way to say total change.  
   Because the order you add two integers doesn’t change the sum, you can add them in any order.

e.g. Kaden deposited a check into his bank account for $16. He then withdrew $20 cash. What was the net change in his bank account?  
(+16) + (-20) = (-4)   
The net change was that Kaden’s account dropped four dollars.

1. “What’s the *difference*?”  
   The answer to a subtraction equation is called the *difference,* so you need to subtract. The answer will tell you how the first integer is different from the second.

e.g. Tom’s golf score was six under par. Mike’s was one over par. What was the differences in their scores?  
(-6) – (+1) = (-7)  
Tom’s score is seven strokes lower than Mike’s score.

1. “Here’s the first amount and a change. What’s the second amount?”  
   This is an addition problem. You should represent the first amount first and the change second in your equation since that is the order in which they happen, so: (amount #1) + (the change) = (amount #2).

e.g. At 3 pm, the temperature was two degrees. By 11 pm, the temperature had dropped six degrees. What was the temperature at 11 pm?  
The first amount is *two degrees*.The change is *dropped six degrees*.  
So: (+2) + (-6) = (-4)  
The temperature at 11 pm was four degrees below zero.

1. “Here’s the first amount and the second amount. How did they change?” Since you need to figure out the difference between the first and second amounts, this is a subtraction problem.   
   However, the order is tricky here. In order to get the correct answer, you’ve got start with the second amount and then subtract the first amount.  
   Why? Think about how you reverse an addition equation to make a subtraction equation. You start your subtraction equation with the end of your addition equation. e.g. If 2 + 3 = 5, then 5 – 3 = 2 and 5 – 3 = 2.  
   So if (amount #1) + (the change) = (amount #2), then to figure out the change we write (amount #2) – (amount #1) = (the change).

e.g. At 10 am, the temperature in Whistler was five degrees below zero. By 3 pm, it was one degree above. How did the temperature change between 10 am and 3 pm?  
The second amount is *one degree above*. The first amount is *five degrees below zero*.  
So (+1) – (-5) = (+6)  
The temperature rose six degrees between 10:00 and 3:00.